

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for operating an illuminating system having a high-pressure discharge lamp operated by alternating current (I_L), and having a color filter system that filters light from the lamp sequentially in time with the aid of a plurality of color filters (G, W, B, R),
in the case of which method the alternating current supply (I_L) of the lamp is commutated (7, 10, 13) at least 10 three times within a complete sequence of color filterings (G, W, B, R).
2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which consecutive spacings (5, 6; 8, 9; 11, 12) 15 between commutations (7, 10, 13) of the lamp current (I_L) differ from one another.
3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], in which within spacings (5, 6; 8, 9; 20 11, 12) between commutations (7, 10, 13) there is a substantially temporally constant lamp current (I_L) over a
2

large part (5, 8, 11) of the spacing, there occurring, preferably at the end of the spacing, a phase (6, 9, 12) that is shorter by comparison with the spacing and has a lamp current (I_L) increased by contrast therewith.

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4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, in which a white phase (W) without color filtering is included in the sequential sequence of the color filterings (G, W, B, R), and a phase of the overincreased lamp current (6) lies at least partially in this white phase (W) free of color filtering.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 [[or 4]], in which there are respectively provided between the individual color filter phases (G, W, B, R) in the sequential sequence interphases that cover the time period in which the light from the lamp is simultaneously filtered by two of the color filters (G, W, B, R), and in which the phases (6, 9, 12) with an overincreased lamp current (I_L) lie at least partially in these interphases.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 3-5~~ Claim 3, in which the phases (6, 9, 12) with an overincreased lamp current (I_L) lie directly before each lamp current commutation (7, 10, 13).

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6,
in which four color filter phases (G, W, B, R) including
the white phase are provided in the temporal sequence of
5 color filterings, and one phase (6) of the overincreased
lamp current (I_L) lies in an interphase before the white
phase (W) and at the start of the white phase (W), and a
phase (9, 12) of overincreased lamp current (I_L) is
provided in respectively two further interphases.

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8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in
~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the lamp
current (I_L) is periodic in time, and each period has two
half periods (5-13) which are symmetrical and of inverted
15 sign and respectively correspond to at least three
commutations (7, 10, 13) of the lamp current (I_L).

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8,
in which a half period (5-13) of the lamp current (I_L)
20 corresponds to a period (P) of the sequential color
filtering (G, W, B, R).

10. (currently amended) The method as claimed
in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 4, ~~at least claim 3,~~
25 in which the length of the phase (6, 9, 12) of
overincreased lamp current (I_L) and/or the overincrease of
4

the lamp current (I_L) in this phase are/is varied for the purpose of electrode shaping and/or stabilizing the lamp operation.

5 11. (currently amended) The method as claimed
in ~~claims 4 and~~ claim 10, in which only the length of the
phases (6) of overincreased lamp current (I_L), and
specifically only that of the phase (6) of overincreased
lamp current lying before and at the start of the white
10 phase (W) is varied.

12. (currently amended) The method as claimed
in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the mean
frequency of the commutation (7, 10, 13) of the lamp
15 current (I_L) is at least 180 Hz.

13. (currently amended) The method as claimed
in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the lamp
current (I_L) is generated by an electronic ballast that is
20 tuned via a digital control signal (SCI) to the
sequential sequence of the color filterings (G, W, B, R),
in which control signal (SCI) a pulse edge determines the
temporal position of a phase (6, 9, 12) of overincreased
lamp current (I_L), and a pulse length determines the
25 temporal length of a phase (6, 9, 12) of overincreased
lamp current (I_L).

14. (currently amended) An electronic ballast
that is designed for a method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 1-13~~ claim 1.

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15. (currently amended) An illuminating system
having a discharge lamp operated by alternating current,
a color filter system and an electronic ballast as
claimed in claim 14, ~~which illuminating system is~~
10 ~~designed for a method as claimed in one of claims 1-13.~~

16. (original) Back projection visual display
unit having an illuminating system as claimed in claim 15.

15 17. (original) Beamer having an illuminating
system as claimed in claim 15.

18. (new) The method as claimed in claim 3, in
which the length of the phase (6, 9, 12) of overincreased
20 lamp current (I_L) and/or the overincrease of the lamp
current (I_L) in this phase are/is varied for the purpose
of electrode shaping and/or stabilizing the lamp
operation.